Safety Measures after accidents is Konkan Railways

681. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways after reviewing the cause of Konkan Railway accident in which more than 50 persons were killed, have decided to take certain new safety measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these measures will be taken on other railway sections also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Immediate temporary measures taken by Konkan Railway (KRCL) include (i) patrolling by locomotives in advance of the passenger trains and temporary speed restriction of 40 kmph in addition to already existing manual patrolling of vulnerable spots, (ii) provision of Audio Visual predictive warning alarm device called "Raksha Dhaga" in all deep cuttings more than 12 m in depth in tunnel approaches, (iii) provision of sand bag buffers, (iv) in rock cuttings of 15 m and above, provision of special steel boulders nets, rock bolting and shotcreting, (v) provision of lined side drain with toe protection wall or pitching along the slope.

(c) Safety measures are taken for different types of accidents and it is a continuous process.

Traffic disruption due to landslides in Konkan Railways

682. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the traffic disruption due to landslides have become frequent on the Konkan Railways as the terrain falls in the high monsoon range; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what measures are proposed to be adopted to prevent such landslides during monsoon season and make the prestigious Konkan Railway less vulnerable to such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes Sir. On Konkan Railway, there were 13 incidents of traffic disruptions where the trains were detained for more than 4 hours.

(b) To prevent such incidents during monsoon seasons, immediate temporary measures such as patrolling by locomotives in advance of the passenger train and temporary speed restriction of 40 kmph have been taken in addition to patrolling of vulnerable spot. These measures will be reviewed after provision of audio visual pre-warning alarm device called "Raksha Dhaga" in all deep cuttings more than 12 metre in depth. In tunnel approaches, sand bag buffers are being placed. In rock cuttings of 15 metre and above, works are being done with fixing of special steel boulder nets, rock bolting and shotcreting. In other type of cuttings, lined side drains with the protection wall or pitching along slope are being done. One round of special loose scaling on massive scale has also been taken up in all rock cuttings.

Introduction of Madhushala Express

683. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received to introduce a direct train from Mumbai to Allahabad by the name of 'Madhushala Express' in the fond memory of the popular poetic compendium of the renowned poet 'Harivansh Rai Bachchan'; and

(b) if so the action taken, so far, to introduce the above train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, frequency of 5025/5026 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Godan Express *via* Allahabad has been increased from weekly to tri-weekly from July 2003 Time Table.

Endangered railway tracks in Makrana

684. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: